

121656

# **Impact of ICTs in Rural Areas (India) Phase II – Information Village Research Project**

**supported by**

**International Development Research Centre (IDRC),  
Canada**

**Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA),  
Canada**

**Terminal Report [2000-2004]**

**Acclaim for Rural Knowledge Centres  
[Annexure 38]**

**This report is presented as received by IDRC from project recipient(s). It has not been subjected to peer review or other review processes.**

**This work is used with the permission of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.**

**© 2004, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.**

**implemented by**

**M S Swaminathan Research Foundation**

121656  
002 540-17  
M7A

## **VISITORS' REMARKS**

**2001-2002**

**Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Maureen O' Neil  
President, IDRC**

Thank you for an inspiring presentation on the real possibilities for changing poor peoples' lives through knowledge intensive, community oriented work with communication technology. It is clear that your ideas will change lives!!

**Roger Finan  
Regional Director, IDRC**

Congratulations for taking an idea to an excellent development and implementation point. This transition and the results you have managed to achieve are remarkable.

**Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Glen Farell  
Common wealth of learning, Vancouver,Canada**

Thank you for the tour of the center. You are taking remarkable work. Congratulations.

**Judith Calder  
COLLIT,Vancouver,Canada**

Many thanks for such an information tour - a truly impressive achievement by the staff!

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Vatsala Kamat  
Special Correspondent, Outlook**

Thank you very much for the pains taken by all here in making our visit fruitful. Your efforts are a great step forward for a social cause.

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Sanwa Buhlmann/Johanathan, Switzerland**

**J-Ch .Chalas, Paris- France**

Dear project team,

We learnt about your organization from a French magazine called "Courier International". We had the chance to interview and to take pictures of a view people who profit of the project. Many thanks to the fisherman in Veerampattinam, the women in Kizhur and especially to Mr Rajasekar who gave us the possibility to get in contact with all these people. On Wednesday we had a very warm welcome in Villianur and later in Kizhur. Your translation work and every thing were very helpful to us. Thanks a lot again.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Carline U Martmm Youngman**

**APGEST Regional co coordinator, UNESCO-Jakarta**

This has been a learning experience, an eye opener for me. I thank MSSRF for giving me this opportunity to learn from this experience and have a model to share with other countries as well in the area of ICT, empowerment of poor communities through information dissemination, etc. I wish the foundation more success and continued grace and blessing to pursue this endeavor to greater heights and reach more poor communities, especially women in the future. Good luck and congratulations.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Dr G.Natchiar, Dr Mohan**

**Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai**

Visited the Foundation according to Dr Venkataswamy's suggestion. I am coming from a farming village. It is a wonderful system by which every village is accessed to the latest information. This is a real eye opener and it will be a great help to all villages. I wish this system spread to rest of Tamilnadu. We all appreciate the great vision of M.S.Swaminathan and the group. I am really very proud to be here it looks information system makes people more educative, more knowledge etc., Wish all the best.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001**

Visit of MSSRF -Orissa staff Mr Kailash Chandra Agrawal

**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Win Klerhix**

Considering that it was just a day, you helped me quite wonderfully. A great peek into IT going rural. Amazing how seamless it merges with the needs in a village like that. Good luck and hope the pictures will publish well. I keep you informed.

**Piere prakash**

**Liberation ( France )**

Thanks for a great insight into what IT can do for rural development, may be a solution to a few of India's problem. An incredible job is going here keep it up. Good luck for the rest of the programme, try to connect as many villages as possible. Thanks again.

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001**

**Library & Information services, Kalpakkam**

We the members from MALA -Kalpakkam chapter feel elated by visiting this center. The information village research project in various parts of Pondicherry is surely using this service to their community development. The various facilities available for rural people were explained very nicely. Very commendable effort. Information is power. This is really felt in this center. It is very heartening to understand that the local library around Pondicherry is going to play good role in this.

**TJ Joyce, Auroville**

Very good work and put technology to work for the people. With Best wishes.

**Mr E Sundarvadivelu, Auroville**

The Scientist involved in this project explained the work very nicely and it is very good to see and try. It's usefulness to the village people.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr Srinivasan, Economic Advisor, Planning Commission, Govt of India, Prof. Hall, United Kingdom, visited Villianur and Veerampattinam center (Visited the project sites)**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Ra. Chandroo, Business World**

I am Chandroo from Business World I came for article about the various report store. I have taken a picture of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and I shot Fisherman's beginning the speaker's in Veerampattinam and Gobu and Rajamohan coordinate all Photo Graphic session.

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Kabir Khan, Moving Picture Co, Mumbai**

As documentary filmmakers, we are always on the lookout for interesting stories and your IT Project in these 5 villages has been an amazing experience. This is truly technology at the grassroots level. The sight of the fisherman in his traditional boat with a satellite messaging handset will remain with me for a long time. A very well coordinated and efficiently executed project.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**B. Sugumaran, Scientist- B, Ministry of Information Technology, No.6 C.G.O Complex, Electronics Niketan, New Delhi- 110003**

My visit of this village information research project executed by MSSRF at Pondicherry-Villianur & other four deep villages makes me to understand the penetration, involvement & achievements of this organization. It is very wonderful task performed among illiterate rural peoples also found very good response from the village peoples I will make note of mission of this programme. Please continue the same in other villages and update the technology finally. I come to

conclusion of this organization efforts are really appreciable to feed a highly technological of IT applications in various fields at grass root level. I wish all the best for this programme and future plans. Thank you very much explaining in depth of government activities with all your staff members and volunteers co operations.

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001**

**Fin Kelle, US. Congress, Chairman, Foreign operation**

The visit to the village information research center was most interesting .It demonstrates how IT technology can brought the bear in a developing country to help people. I am proud that the people of the United States through our USAID programme are helping the people of Tamil Nadu. You can be very proud of what you have accomplished for your people

**June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr. Sanjay Kapoor, Journalist, New Delhi**

Exciting enterprise. I think of has enormous potential, which still needs to be realized. Congratulations!

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Dwight Wilson, World Corps, Seattle USA &Chennai**

What you are doing is very inspiring. I hope we at World Corps can learn more and perhaps take some of this information to help us in our efforts. GOOD LUCK!

**Paul Perrowtt, ISNAR , The Netherlands.**

You are doing really outstanding work, showing the way on how IT can be useful to villages. We thank you for a most interesting visit.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Urs A. Jaeggi, Bread for All, Switzerland**

Let we say thank you for the very interesting day I could spend with you. I think as the work you are doing its very useful for a common information society.

**June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**I. Vasanthakumar reddy, Director - Agriculture Department, Pondicherry**

It is very interesting to know the activities. I will try how best Dept of Agriculture can work together with this hub.

**June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Vinay kumar, Vice Chancellor, Haryana Agri. University, HISAR**

Very instructive visit to this Information Village Center. Excellent work.

**S.K. Srivastava, Scientist, ISRO, Bangalore**

Very satisfying to know the use of satellite data/ services put to use directly for fisherman community.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mark Waschaur, University of California, Irvine**

I have traveled around the world and I find your project to be one of the finest examples of IT for community development. The world has much to learn from your work and I will be honored to have the privilege to help pass on what I've seen here. Congratulations and keep it up. Best wishes to all involved in your projects.

**July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Meena Menon, Journalist**

I would like to thank the MSSRF specially Mr. Rajmohan and Senthil for organizing the trip with great pain and diligence and at a lot to their own work. I visited five villages and met people who were with warm and respectable and keen on working with the knowledge. I hope the people benefit from the centers and am able to manage them on their own. I would like to thank MSSRF once again for its cooperation and unstinted help.

**July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001**

**Punita shah, London School of Economics**

Dear all

I had a really great experience here in Pondicherry . I visited almost all the information Villages in about seven days and was amazed by the sights in the villages. The enthusiasms, the eagerness and warm welcome I received from the villagers and the MSSRF staff was really good. I have learnt immensely and I know that this experience is going to help me a lot in my life. I believe that this is going to be a success.

Wish everyone all the best.

**Ben. Abraham, London**

Dear all,

I always use to read in magazines and watch it in news. But what I was is really what we need more in India. Single- minded dedication of the staff of MSSRF, their willingness to share information is really out of this world. I really want to see project growing in size and spreading from one village to another and benefiting millions. And connecting them to the rest of the world in a unique way.

Wish you all a great Success.

**R.K. Chauhan, 20 RAJ R/F, ADC to Governor of Tamilnadu**

Dear all

I had heard a lot about the good work being done by the M. S. Swaminathan Foundation and specially the concept of Info villages. Today, after the visit to the info village value addition center, I realize how the front line technology can be used for real empowerment of poor, transparency in govt by making people aware of their rights. Ultimately it makes a qualitative and quantitative difference to the lives of villagers who so far were really unreached. The staff of value addition is very dedicated. On a holiday, they waited for me and explained everything to me. I have learnt a lot and use this kind of experience for the betterment of our people some thing in life.



**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Dr P.P.Mathur, Professor of Life Sciences, Pondicherry University**

The project of information dissemination is a novel approach to empower the rural folks. The project is very useful. The bio information village project is very good and worthy of emulation. We wish all the success.

**Dr F.R.Sheriff, Director of Extension Education, Tamilnadu Veterinary and animal sciences university, Chennai**

Visited M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation's Information Village Research Center hub at Villianur along with my scientist of TANUVAS today. I was thrilled the way in which dedicated service being done by Mr Rajamohan and Mr Rajasekarapandy in collecting information and passing on to the village knowledge. The approach to the community with suitable information for sustainable improvement is laudable. A new experience for the veterinarian / scientist to get glimpse of the rural knowledge center. Our best wishes to the scientist/volunteers for sharing their knowledge with us. Voluntary explanation of solar power and the ways of economizing the day today expenses are note worthy. I express my best wishes to all the volunteers for doing this noble service.

**Raul Roman, Cornell University, USA**

It was a pleasure to come back and see that the program is progressing and improving and that you all are doing fine. I hope I can get back soon. I do thank you for your hospitality, help and friendship.

**July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Visit of R Bakthavatchalam, Police Radio Station, Gorimedu, Pondicherry**

**July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Shivraj Kanungo**

Learnt a lot regarding rural information systems. The sooner such issues are brought in to traditional information systems research stream, the better. My continuing endeavor will be to document the learning for resource challenged information system and is doing so, hope to contribute to incremental improvements. My sincere thanks to one and all at MSSRF to have allowed me to participate in this learning experience.

**August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Visit of Ms Maerge, Netherlands**

**August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Smitha Mallya, Peace boat, Japan**

It was indeed a privilege to visit the Villianur hub center and the Embalam knowledge centers, am sure that the wonderful work done by MSSRF and the communities themselves will bring many benefits for all in the long run. Wishing you all the very best

**August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr R Murugan, Inspector of Police Commissioner, Police Radio Bureau, Pondicherry**

Just visited to learn about wireless technology intervention for community development.

**Visit of MSSRF Staff, Pudukottai.**

A group of 14 staff from Pudukottai visited the project site.

**August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Michael Best, MIT Media lab**

Thank you for a superb visit and congratulations

**Dimitri Negroponte**

This is a wonderful project.

**Brain Bacon, AED, and Academy for educational development, Washington DC**

I appreciate you having shown us your impressive project. I think there are many lessons to be learned from your experience. Your volunteer's support is exceptional.

**Madhumita Gupta, USAID/New Delhi**

The thought, insight, dedication and innovation that's going into this project is truly exceptional. Thank you for spending the time to allow us to share this experience.

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Sheri Dhankevy, IDRC, Canada**

Thank you very much for all your hospitality. I'm very grateful that you took time with me and accompany me to the knowledge centers. I'm very impressed with the overall project, especially your communities. This is an integral aspect to the project and is ensuring its continued success. Good luck with all your future efforts.

**Dr S.K.Sinha & Ms Kiran, SBI**

Mr Rajamohan explained the operation of information for villages through computers. We are very much pleased to hear that we hope it will help the villagers very much.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Ashok Gupta, Principal Secretary, Development and Planning Department, Govt of West Bengal, Raj Bhavan**

Visited this center this morning. I'm immensely impressed by the nature of the extent of work being done in this project. The thing that appealed to the best is that online project is based on needs as perceived by the beneficiaries. This not only information regarding market prices or weather report are provided, information reality even to auspicious hours of the day are also

available. This is very interesting as I'm sure such type of information would make the people use the centers more frequently and thereby they will also expose themselves to the other information which is available. Another aspect of the project is the case in which computers literacy is spreading in the remote villages through this project. The project I feel is doing very useful work. I wish them all success.

**September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Marie. André Manger, French TV, Canadian Broadcasting Company**

Dear Mr. Rajamohan and Mr. Gobu

I will never find the words to thank you as much as you deserved to your kindness and great availability deeply touched me. Without your help, I could have done nothing. Discovering the villages of Embalam and Veerampattinam was a great experience and I do think I can make a good film about it. I strongly believe in communication as a mean to create a better world and the knowledge Centers enhance this belief. Powerful work long live to the Information Project.

**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001**

**Farman Ullah Anjun, Pakistan**

I have a great pleasure to be with the people who work for themselves and dedicated to a holy cause. Please continue and the world is with you.

**Gerolf weigel, SDC Switzerland**

A most impressive programme and a great team!. Thank you very much for making all the arrangements for the visit and workshop. I wish you further SUCESS.

**Al Aleorc, FMA Philipine**

Malbahay Kay! (More piece and long we all of you)

Maraming Salamat (Thank you very much)

Ia solidarly

**Welody Asia, FMA Philippine**

Thank you very much! I enjoy my trip here! Once again thank you and more power.

**Demy Coeura, CEWD, Philippine**

I am very grateful to all the staff of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation for a great job done.  
I also appreciate your petering in bearing with my logistical problem

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001**

**John Borquoyary, British Council**

Excellent Job done. Keep it up!

**Chat Pamela**

Dear Raj and everyone!

Your work is inspiring and keeps my faith high that knowledge and ICTs can be empowering,  
thank you for generously showing and introducing us to the people whose lives have been  
changed by your work.

**Rameh Patel /Ragesh Barwaliya/Dilip Koradiya from Honey Bee**

Congratulations!

**Vijay Pradap Singh/Honey Bee**

My trip and workshop had been a great moment, your hospitality and professionalism; of course  
the work is commendable.

**Ms Hellen Trapel /IFAD**

What a wonderful experience -keep up the good work! Thank you for showing us around!

**Mr Keiko Hasegawa /Tmoko Kunihiro/Megumi Ishikawa of Peace Boat**

Dear everyone in the village

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to visit you and for explaining about your center. We are very much impressed by your work. We will tell more and more people about you.

**Ms Suguru Shindome/Peace Boat**

I am glad to see here. Thank you so much.

**Mr Ryo Jakayama/Peace Boat**

Thank you

**October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mans Raj Verma/MD ELCOT and Mr Ramamurthy /JDA/Agriculture Dept.**

Visited the Info Village Research Project.

**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr Juha Rekola, Chief Editor/Chairman ,One World,Finland**

A vary interesting research project that gives a lot of hope of bridging the digital divide and perhaps a compete at other divide as well.

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr L K Atheeq, Deputy Commissioner, Mandya**

As a part of a team of Officers from 4 different States, we visited the value addition center at Villianur. The Information Village Research Project is novel effort of application of IT and communication to the needs of the village people. This is an important step in bridging the great digital divide. We are very impressed with the efforts of MSSRF people.

However, it is time to think about replication and working the most cost effective model for reaching rural people with their information needs.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mrs Nitya Varadarajan**

As a special Correspondent of Business Today magazine, I visited the Villianur hub. I got a good idea on how information is transmitted to help the community to grow and derive benefit. The work done here and in the outlying villages by the MSSRF is very impressive.

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Dr M L Dewan,Chairman ,HIRCIN,  
Mr Ram Chauri, Teri Garttin Dist, Uttrakanch  
& Prof. J S Bali/Mr Harpf Mdm Vyas/Dr Piyoush Rautela**

Within the direction of Our Guide and Leader Dr S Subramanian, MSSRF visited the Information center of MSSRF, very impressive, is doing lot of service to the community here and will do more.

**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr Baljit Kaur  
University of Canterbury, Christ Church, New Zealand**

Absolutely fantastic! A center and programme like this gives tremendous optimism and hope to me for rural emancipation and empowerment. All the people involved in visualizing, implementing and sustaining this project deserve to be congratulated and supported in their wonderful endeavor. I feel privileged to have a chance to visit this place and listen to the enthusiastically presented information about the work-source of pride for all involved! My best wishes for their future visions of expansion.

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr La Lanne Savery, France**

**Congratulation**

**October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Ms Barabar Keating, One World International, London**

Dear All

A fascinating project, which takes into account, all the difficulties normally associated with ICT. It is very heartening to see a project that not only works so well but also has many aspects, which can be scaled up for other regions and countries. In particular, the generation of local content for local needs, supported and run by the local community itself is the best example of social capital I have ever seen. Yours with many thanks.

**October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001**

**Mr Arun Kumar, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Dept of Ext. New Delhi**

I visited the IVRP (MSSRF), Information Village along with the entire participants attended workshop held at Pondicherry on 30-31st October 2001. The information gathered here are very informative and really useful for farmers. It saves farmers energy and time both. I wish all the success on behalf of the participants.

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001**

**Christian R Lunnedal, Robert Chapman, Michael Riggs, FAO**

Many thanks for a fascinating visit to the hub and village centers, you have given us all a wonderful insight into the MSSRF programme and we are very grateful. I hope we can continue to work with you and learn from the innovative approaches you are developing. Many thanks from us all!

**November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr Jagadish Prasad /Dr H Sudarshan**

**Vivekanda Girijana Kalyan Kendra (VGKK), BR Hills, Chamarajnagar District, Karnataka**

On behalf of Vivekanda Girijana Kalyan Kendra (VGKK), Dr H Sudarshan and on my own behalf, I am grateful for opening my eyes to the incredible work done by you. The example you and MSSRF have set should be a lighthouse that draws every serious NGO here. Once again I thank you most sincerely for this learning experience.



**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001**

**Mr R Sivaradjane / Mr S Aravamudan / Mr T Mourouguesin / Mr M Ayyanperumal / Mr P Subramaniyan / Mr M Visweswaran**

**Field Supervisors, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Govt. of Pondicherry**

We have visited this center (MSSRF-Villianur) today and we are gathering many useful technical information from your center.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Lieutenant General S N Sihka, Governor of Assam**

I was very impressed to see the organization and functioning of this Value Addition Center. I think there is tremendous scope for ushering a social and economic revolution in our rural areas with the use of modern scientific technology. I hope that the vision of our great agricultural scientist which created this network will spread to all parts of the country bringing immense benefit to our Nation.

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr M V Karuppiyah, Radio Supervisor, Police radio Branch, Pondicherry**

I am visited this IT center working with computer aided communication center. It is learnt that this Station is under testing process send/collect all kinds of information in village level is useful for not only village people but all are getting benefit. This kind of center should be opened all the places in our country. Thank you

**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr Selvakku, Project Associate /MSSRF( Mandapam) with the Members of the Island Fishermen Association, Pamban. (10 members)**

**Exposure trip to IVRP**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr R Sengalvarayan, DGM/Neyveli Lignite Corporation with four Senior Officials**

We are very much impressed about the activities undertaken by the center. Also we were appraised about the benefits accrued to rural village folks because of this center. we had discussion with M/S V\_Link System, Chennai about the modalities and functioning of their systems at this center. We were fully satisfied and happy about the center. Sri.K G Rajamohan, Social Scientist guides us well and explained the details about the center. We are also thinking of utilizing the ISRO and BEL facilities at our Corporation. We express our happiness and gratitude.

**December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Ms Marika Viziany, Monash Asia Institute, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia**

A highly impressive experiment -the Swaminathan Foundation is to be appreciated on their innovative approach to poverty alleviation. And thanks to Mr Rajamohan who has patiently explained things to me. I have much better appreciation of how this experiment might be replicated. Profound thanks for the all the time and trouble.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Maung Ko/Myint Sann/Myint Htay/Aung Sann/Myanmar (Team), Japan**

We have many information points from Swaminathan Research Foundation for -Agriculture/ Primary Health care/Fisherman Guidelines/Weather reports and etc., This resource is very nice and very effect for our country, Myanmar. We look like our land inform to our Government. Then we should do like this.

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001**

**Kerstin Lundell, Sweden**

I am amazed at what information is about to small villages. Very little information means so much, which is the contrary to how it is to Sweden, where we have too much information. Now I have understood the deeper value of knowledge. Thank you.

**December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Deivyani Mani, UNCRD, Nagoya, Japan**

I am very inspired by this project and the good work you are doing. The social impact is large and positive. Best wishes.

**Benjamin D Huffmann, UNCRD Nagoya, Japan**

Thank you for taking the time to show us around .I found the information very useful. I hope we can visit again someday and share our knowledge together.

**December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Mr Mohamad Mansoor, Project Officer, DRDA, Govt of Pondicherry**

The visit to MSSRF Information project hub was a fruitful and informative one.

**Mr Amudakumar, Assistant Project Officer, DRDA, Govt of Pondicherry**

Community Development through this project can definitely have faster achievement.

**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

**Mr K Arulalan and his team of 10 staff members + 32 SHGs Executive Members  
Civil Engineer, In charge of Village Information Center, Myrada/PLAN Dharmapuri**

A group of members from MYRADA/PLAN Dharmapuri project, Hosur consists of 10 staff (Community development worker) and 32 executive members of established village Information centers of our project working area has visited to Villianur hub center on 4th Jan 2002

We would like to know the collection of information from various resources, and various facilities to convert the information for easy access to the people and transmission of information and sustainability of the centers by MSSRF

We had been to Villianur hub center and to Embalam, Pillaiyarkuppam and interacted with the village people and the staff of MSSRF. We are very happy about the learned information and could be possible to implement in our centers whatever possible.

We felt that to learn and interact effectively in terms of all aspects within a day is not sufficient and minimum 2 to 3 days required to do so.

**January 7<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**AC Khan, Mewat development Agency, Gurgaon, Haryana**

As Chairman Mewat Development Agency. I am engaged in Child Development program for the 4-8 years old kids who have not gone to the school, women empowerment, mobile health program, malnutrition, TB etc, encouraging self help group, drinking water extension for 232 villages. Due to a dialogue with British Council came to know that Prof M S Swaminathan Foundation is doing good work in rural women up- liftment and also helping people to make use of Bio resources locally available. Came to call on! Happy to interact with the Social Scientist very aware empathetic and sensitive to needs. Would well informed about the concept, empowerment and cost in put, man power training etc., Would be obliged to be in touch and be assisted.

**January 9th 2002**

**Nelson Royal & Team, ISPWDK NGO partners from Karnataka**

We are the team of 14 members on sustainable agriculture from SDC/IC watershed programme in Karnataka. as part of exposure , we visited this Knowledge center in Embalam and Villianur Information center. The salient features, which impressed us most, are

Knowledge and information are important in development, which this project tries to provide at farmers doorsteps

We feel motivated and necessitated to have such technology at our villages in Karnataka. It was a good learning visit to us.

We thank the Organizers, research team, field persons etc., for providing information and demonstrating the Information village concept.

**January 10<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Kongu Engineering College Staff and Students  
Erode (2 staff and 47 students) lead by Mr. Priyakanth**

We students of Kongu Engineering College attended the research centers and understood the application and implementation of the Information technology towards the village community. Your hard work is appreciated. We too like to join along with you to take the current technology to the pillars of India. (In Tamil - Long Live)

**January 11<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**G Madavan, Dy Director (Plant Protection) and M Duraiswamy, Agriculture Officer  
Dept of Agriculture, Pondicherry**

We have come to this center to get first hand information regarding the activities carried out by this center. We are very much impressed with their activities, which is useful to any common man. We also told them that we will help in whatever information they want to have regarding Plant protection. Wish them all the best. Regards.

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2002**

**K S Mohan Kumar, Coordinator, Young Asia television, Chennai**

Best wishes on the Information Village Project -should reach more villages. Superb! Excellent technology!

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002**

**Dr AK Dey, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Civil supplies, Assam**

I have been much impressed after visiting this Information center, which is in service for the rural people. I hope everybody will take the help of these technical facilities.

**Stephen Yarwood, Researcher, South Australian Parliament, Australia**

Very impressive technology and society project that sends message of hope and empowerment to the people that really need it.

Don't stop networking, pushing the boundaries and believe in the possible not the probable.

Best of luck to the team, the men, women and children of the region.

**January 29<sup>th</sup>2002**

**Abby Youngblood, Organic farmer sponsored by Watson Foundation, USA**

I see this as a very useful model to ensure that technology is utilized equitably and to ensure that rural people also have the opportunity to become conversant in IT. I will recommend this model to other development organizations focused on it programs. Thank you very much for your time and the warm welcome I have received.

**January 30<sup>th</sup>2002**

**Dr Suda P Iyer-Globarena, Hyderabad**

**Dr Dethf Virelon,JEF -Bann, Germany**

**Dr Madan Mohan ,SPK, Chennai**

**Margie & Jim Peacock, Canberra, Australia**

**Lalitha KM, A New Center for Women development, Kerala**

**Prof. Dr Ruth Umiango, Kenya**

**Ashok Vyas-AKRSP, India**

**Team from Inter disciplinary Dialogue on New Technology -Reaching the Unreached team  
visit from MSSRF-Chennai**

Congratulations! Very impressed! You are empowered!

Congratulations! You are connecting the world!!!

**January 30<sup>th</sup>2002**

**Akihan Jain and Karthik Vora, Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad**

Very impressive! Very inspiring!

**January 31<sup>st</sup> 2002**

**Mr S D Sharma and his team, Delhi Doordarshan, New Delhi**

Shot film on Information Village Project and ICT for rural community.

**February 1<sup>st</sup> 2002**

**Mrs Seetha Srikanth, Content Editor, Web health Center, Tata Consultancy Service, Chennai**

We visited two knowledge centers (Veerampattinam and Embalam) apart from the hub center. In both the centers we found volunteers to be well informed and enthusiastic. Our trip was well coordinated by Mr Rajamohan. The efficient functioning of your centers gives us the hope that information technology can indeed be used to improve the lot of the rural poor in India. We will be glad to provide value addition to the project.

**February 5<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Kevin Pantan & Basil Baldwin, Faculty of Rural Management, University of Sydney, Orange**

Many thanks for showing us a very thoughtful set of new agriculture/rural development practices. The dissemination of information through computer technology is the best I have seen. It is especially important for empowering women. We met many women who spoke most eloquently and asked us most challenging questions. Obviously their use of the technology has given them the knowledge and confidence to ask these questions. Confidence to ask these questions. Equally important are the ecological benefits that will flow from the BIOVILLAGES. This concept needs to be disseminated widely. It could be an important component of a global sustainability approach.

**February 6<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Dr Deborah Roth & Lie Shen, USA**

Can't thank you enough, Gobu et al. for your, most thoughtful introduction to this exceptional work. I learned plenty including something I have interpreted incorrectly. I hope I will be able to revisit soon. Very best.

**Dr Lie Shen, USA**

Thank you very much for some very interesting g insights. Mr. Gobu is certainly both devoted and insightful. The village knowledge center project is surely successful Best wishes.

**February 7<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr. JS Samra, DDGC(NRM)ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi**

This is an excellent example of applications of IT for rural up-liftment. Good luck for innovative initiations.

**Mr Rakesh Srivatsava, Chief executive Office, MP Agency for promotion of IT(MAPIT), Bhopal**

It was a great pleasure to see technology being used to fulfill real needs. I am impressed about the processes followed to make the application relevant to the beneficiaries group and use of appropriate technologies -wireless communication, solar power and interface in Tamil. Best wishes.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Ritwik Petra, Deepalaya, New Delhi**

It is good to see that people are working towards removing the digital divide; it is now needed to take this to furthest villages of India.

Thanks for the hospitality.

**PA Thomas, New Delhi**

Happy to know that ICT is taken top the grass root level and people benefit.

**Michael le Page, New Scientist Magazine, London**

Many thanks for taking me around to see the projects, all the best for the future.



**February 11<sup>th</sup>2002**

**Julian Swindell, Royal Agriculture College, Gloucester, England**

**Dr Pan Swindell, Health Center, Strond, Glasgow, England**

**Dr Katie Fords Highcraft, Strond, Glasgow, England**

**Mr Desmond Ffords, Strond, Glasgow, England**

Good Luck

**February 13<sup>th</sup>2002**

**Mr. Jim Beaver, Deputy Director, USAID/India-US Embassy, New Delhi**

Absolutely fascinating and my congratulations to MSSRF and to the village gram panchayat and leaders and volunteers!

**February 21<sup>st</sup>2002**

**Mr Soma Morgan, Oxford**

This is a very impressive center, and the bottom up approach is clearly working! We are particularly happy by the scale and scope of the interrelated activities. We hope you will be able to expand these schemes through the intervention of others.

**Ed Southern, Oxford**

As a Social Scientist I am overwhelmed by your great success in bringing the power of new technology to applications of such major benefits. Many Congratulations!

**February 28<sup>th</sup>2002**

**Mr. N Nelson, Secretary, Center For development Madras (CEDMA), Chennai**

Good work

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2002**

**Dr DG Mahajan, Mrs .Sulakshana Mahajan, University of Michigan, Thane**

Observed the center activities at Villianur hub

**Mr. Manohar Shenoy, Director , with Mr FA Jami, Mr Vishal V Singh, Mrs Kusum Janhari, CARE, Lucknow**

I was very pleased to visit MS Swaminathan's Information Village Research Project. I am very impressed by the impact and sustainability the project is delivering. Being a great believer that it is great driver of social and economic development for the most vulnerable communities. I was impressed to see this project being a living example of that belief.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr. SK Meharia, Member, Jharkand Council for Science & Technology, Ranchi**

I came to Pondicherry to attend the seminar of DST. On 7th we heard about this center. I was anxious to know the details etc., so that we can start such types of centers in our state of Jharkhand. The Information provided was excellent and persons connected with it are very polite, cooperative. We wish such types of centers come up through out our country and we become strong INDIA.

**Dr Rajendra Dobhal, MP Council of Science & Technology, Bhopal**

**Mr. Rajesh Solankey, Scientist, Shimla Council of Science & Technology, Shimla**

I am impressed by the motivation; commitment and hardworking couples with innovativeness of that knowledge enter which is worth replicating in the village-dominated country like India.

**March 14, 2002**

**Mr Chandran Thiruchitrambalam, Canadian High Commission, Delhi**

**Mr Baljit Nagpal, CIDA, Ottawa**

**Mr Mahesh Uppal, CIDA, Delhi**

It has been fascinating session learning about the great work being done through this center. Hopefully we at CIDA will be able to continue this "learning experiences" Thanks all of you.

**Mr Peter Cranston, One World International, London, [Pete.Cranston@oneworld.net](mailto:Pete.Cranston@oneworld.net)**

I am writing on behalf of the whole One world team-Peter Armstrong, Shady Kanfi from Transparency International, James Jeans from Accentors and Peter Cranston –to thank you all warmly for the wonderful support and help you have provided us.

The village knowledge center is indeed a unique project in terms of its success with the rural poor and its potential as a replicable model.

Good luck with the next phase –and please come to visit us in London.

**March 18,2002**

**Dr RB Thakare, Hon Vice Chancellor-Shri Shivarj Loka Vidyapithkalyan**

**Member Secretary of Ex-World Bank. VITA,USAID/USDA**

**Technical Adviser in Africa**

**Mr N S Patil, President of Bharat krishak Samaj, Nagpur**

**Dr YM Taley, Rt. Dean & Director of Instructions**

**Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Didyapeeth, Akola, Nagpur**

**Mr RD Gawande, Chairman &MO, Hanitkranti, Nagpur**

**Mr Jacques Cercueil, Former Director ESA Division FAO (Rome),FAO Consultant, France**

**Mr Frederic Deve, Project Leader, Roles of Agriculture Project, FAO, Rome and Italy**

**[Frederic.deve@fao.org](mailto:Frederic.deve@fao.org)**

**Ms Aashalata Patil, Bharat krishak Samaj, Nagpur**

We are glad to visit your project, which is doing good work for the un reached people. We wish you all the best for your future activities to promote the useful technologies to these un reached people via., Dr M S Swaminathan Research Foundation. We wish your effort all the best. Loka Vidyapeeth will use similar ideas to promote the useful technologies to the people and areas. Thanks a lot for showing us all about your work and we wish to send our staff to learn from your side.

**March 20,2002**

**Mr TD N Musty, Mr SH Shivanagouda, Mr Rewa Gouda, Mr DS Prasad, Mr Lingaraj, Mr Prasadmurthy, Mr Rangasetty (28 visitors from APGEST, Regional Conference participants visited the IVRP project sites in Pondicherry)**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002**

**Stephen Hill, Director/Representative UNESCO, Jakarta**

**Madege Marie, Assistant Coordinator, UNESCO, Jakarta**

**Marion Simency, UNDP, Manila, Philippines**

**Sudhindra Sharma -IDA, Kathamandu, Nepal**

**Minella Alarcon, UNESCO, Paris, France**

**& 23 other visitors from Asia Pacific Gender Equity through Science & technology - regional Conference : APGEST**

Good Luck .Great appreciation to the project

**March 30<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr B S Pradeep**

**Silicon India**

**Bangalore**

My visit to the hub center was on the right day. Got to meet volunteers from all the knowledge centers.

One needs to emulate the enthusiasm that these volunteers have in them.

"Journey of thousand miles begins with a single, small step" "Its is a lesson I carry from here "

With best wishes.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002**

**Dr SVN Rao**

**Dr Ramkumar**

**Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinaries and Animal science**

**Pondicherry**

It is very interesting to see the functions of this Info center, which is making the information gap reduced. This experiment I hope will can be extended to other villages.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002**

**Mr Mukti Jain Campien  
Producer “ e\_villages” for BBC Radio 4  
London, England**

I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting the project and very much hope it will be replicated elsewhere in India. Very Best wishes.

**April 3, 2002**

**Mr P Srinivas  
ANI -TV media  
Chennai**

A very informative and knowledge flame for the community. Hope the future of our country makes use of this knowledge base and development to our villages as Gandhi said” India lies in its villages”

**April 5, 2002**

**Mr S S Meenatchi sundaram  
Addl,Secretary,Dept of Space  
Govt. of India**

An interesting experiment –needs lot more efforts to collect and update information and dissemination. Wish you good luck.

**April 6, 2002**

**Mr Rattan Lal  
The Ohio State University  
Glumbul  
Ohio**

Excellent futuristic and visionary center rendering vital services to the rural community

**April 25, 2002**

**Mr A P Frank Niramiah  
DPR, PIB  
Bangalore**

The knowledge center supported by Information village research project is very unique and novel in its approach and hope it will serve the best interests of the village community by networking of information and meeting their needs from one point. This concept observed to be emulated. The media was very appreciative of the work done by this project center.

**May 10th, 2002**

**Mr Bo Dan Bergman  
SIDA  
Stockholm  
Sweden ([bo.dan.bergman@sida.se](mailto:bo.dan.bergman@sida.se))**

We donor organization discuss quite a lot how to make use of ICT, modern information technology, in improving living conditions in poor people in rural areas. You have come for in showing in practice how this can work. As a SIDA –representative I feel quite impressed by your achievements. I hope colleagues of mine together with Bangladeshi NGO and local Government representatives of Greater Faridpur areas will get a chance to see this for themselves. This could inspire them to create something similar.

One very important feature of making use of ICT is to make it sustainable, to collect revenues so that the service can continue, when the flow of aid funds cease.

Many thanks and I wish you further success.

**May 14th,2002**

**SM Shastry  
Assistant Zonal Manager  
State Bank Institute of Rural development  
Hyderabad**

The information village Research project hub at Villianur presents an interesting concept as to how the information required by the rural people can be transmitted to the information centers managed by the communities themselves. The project is very interesting and if emulated at all the places will no doubt result in overall development of rural India and empower rural masses. I wish the personnel at the center all the best in their endeavors

**May 18th,2002**

**Mr S Murugagani accompanied  
12 women and 45 men farmers  
Reddiarchattiram Seed growers Association  
Dindigul**

New experiences and exposure.

**Ms Madege Marie  
Assistant Coordinator  
UNESCO office  
Jakarta**

**Ms Marien Simency  
APGEN –UNDP  
Manila  
Philippines**

**Mr Sudhindra Sharama  
SDA  
Kathmandu  
Nepal**

**Ms Minella Alareon**

**UNESCO**

**Paris +(28 visitors from APGEST, Regional Conference participants visited the IVRP project sites in Pondicherry)**

Good Luck

A very informative and knowledge flame for the community. Hope the future of our country make use of this knowledge base and development to our villages as Gandhi said" India lies in its villages"

**Farmers' Seed Growers Association (12 women + 45 men = 57 members )Reddiarchattiram**

Exposure trip by the farmers to see the functions of the Information villages

**May 21 ,2002**

**Mr Geoft Wastan**

**Cambridge University, UK**

Thank you for showing me rural centers today. It was nice to see a Social Scientist in charge of an IT based project. The experiment seems very successful; we must hope the pilot project can be extended more villages in India. Good luck in its future work.

**Mr A J Solomon**

**British Council**

**Chennai**

Wonderful to learn of the excellent community oriented work being done through the village Information project. May be as an extension. I would suggest talks by local experts (health, education etc.,) could form part of the project to target groups, which, may be a good value addition. Best wishes.

**May 23,2002**

**Vijay TV team**

Visit consisting of 5 members



**May 24,2002**

**Mr Krishna Bhatnagar  
Principal Adviser  
Planning Commission  
New Delhi**

The use of information technology for all is an outstanding effort. Congratulations for the effort.

**Mr Jonnathan Woods  
APRTC  
Bangkok  
Thailand**

Very Interesting! It will be exciting to see how new wireless technologies affect the cost and multiplication of your project. I wish you to keep up to date on your progress. Thank you..

**July 31st 2002**

**Emanuel De Barl  
Director  
British Council, South India  
Eemin.wool @in.britishcouncil.org**

Thank you very much for a most informative on set. The work of this project is the 21st Century equaling to the introduction of the Public Libraries in the 19th century in UK is the impact that it is having on people's lever.

**August 1<sup>st</sup> 2002**

**Mr Srikanth Padmanabhan  
Student -IIM,Bangalore**

I was here primarily to study how computers and the Internet can affect traders, local producer communities etc., I am highly enthused at seeing all this activity and grateful to the help provided is pertaining my research. Warm regards.

**August 5th 2002**

**Shridar Loni  
Staff Correspondent  
SAKAL papers  
Pune -2**

I have heard of MSSRF information center project. This is the way to bridge the gap between haves' and have-nots and also to avoid digital divide. I found the center more useful.

**August 16th 2002**

**Mr Divakar Rho  
The Biotech Group  
Dept of IT&Biotechnology  
Govt of Karnataka**

The Knowledge center project of MSSRF is quite well conceived and equally well executed. I was impressed by the hub and cluster approach and by the range of information provided by the centers

Clearly the project has much higher potential but an excellent beginning has been made. Being a dairy development expert myself, I feel the project has the potential to become the focal point of the Indian village and bring to the rural folk the prosperity and knowledge management can.

I wish the project a success.

**August 20th 2002**

**SD Sarasawathy  
Chief Executive  
Mahatma Gandhi Mission  
MDC-Aurangabad  
MP &  
Mr AN Kadam  
Dr PY Kulkarni  
Dr Asahwina**

**Dr Wakte**

It is a excellent set up to serve the un reached people for their enhancement in main and bring technology to villagers.

-A dream of Mahatma Gandhi to make village self sufficient with eco-friendly environment.

**August 26th 2002**

**Mr Vijay Selvarajan  
11/12 1st main road  
Kotturpuram  
Madras**

I am a Business school student who is very interested and entrepreneurship and my visit to the Vilianur hub had given me lot of information about the entrepreneurial activity in these villages

**September 9th 2002**

**John Stoorind (Junior)  
Netherland**

Thank you for showing me the information center. I was very impressed by your work and your projects. There is a great bulk of information you gather and transfer into information suitable or fishermen and farmers .I pity I did not have the time to visit the other project. I hope to see them a next time. Thanks for the hospitality and all the best with your work.

**September 16th 2002**

**N Jardhanan  
Asst. Director -Agriculture (information)  
c/o The Commissioner of Agriculture ,Chennai**

**SPS Bhat  
Punjabsameti**

**KV Deshmukh**

**Natpabad**  
**Mr Amar Singh**  
**AgrilIndia**

**N Arumugam IAS**  
**Director**  
**SAMETTI**  
**Maharastra**

Discussed and seen the project is much of fare news. The dynamic data provided to farmers and fishermen is remarkable. Learned new things, which would be replicated.

It is very interesting in Thirukanchipet center where the children from this village and nearby village are coming and access to the world by using computer. The center is playing a great role in changing the mindset of the people. In this remote area, technology is made available by the MSSRF, which is very helpful to farmers, fishermen too. We wish the great success in the life of farming community and the participants who are playing a role of volunteers.

**September 19<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Dr SP Tucker IAS**  
**Ex Commissioner, RD/GOAP**  
**Coordinator /AP Rural Livelihoods programme**  
**AP-Hyderabad**

Visited the hub/project office. Very nice growth and effective communication channel is opening up new vistas. The potential is huge and the Foundation has to lead in making it sustainable. The hub needs good encouragement. Warmest regards

**September 23rd 2002**  
**Ceile Bertoncino**  
**World Bank, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya**

This visit, part of a 16 days trip to Srilanka and India to start a learning partnership on indigenous knowledge is very impressive do believe that ultimately ICT will be the means to lift rural communities to of poverty by enabling them to access vital information to raise the value of their human.

**Hon.Dr Webedaya Beatrice**  
**Ministry of State health**  
**Kampala**  
**Uganda**  
**South Africa**

I wish to register our thanks on behalf the Uganda delegates to the village information research center programme. We had a good insight on how much information can do to benefit and change rural population who otherwise would not access relevant and timely information. This project has demonstrated that with minimal infrastructure one can transform a society through IT.

**Mr M .Amha**  
**Ethiopian Science&Technology commission**  
**Addis Abbiba**  
**Ethiopia**  
**Africa**

MSSRF is a powerful demonstration of how IT can be put to use in changing the life of and empowering the rural people. One World wish to see more of around globe.

**Mr Mannani Hendry Kemoli**  
**Programme Coordinator**  
**National center for early childhood education**  
**Nairobi**

The Kenya team very much impressed with the initiatives and activities of the information project. This kind of innovation is not there in our country. It is something that we will be definitely wish to introduce in our countries. Please keep up hopes of the communities the very you are doing it. Thank you.

**Dr Zerubabel**  
**Executive Secretary**  
**Kenya national Council for Science & technology**  
**Kampala**  
**Uganda**

**Mr Tefaye Awas**  
**Institute of Biodiversity conservation and Research**  
**Addis Abba**  
**Ethiopia**

**Ms Girma Balacha**  
**Institute of Biodiversity conservation and Research**  
**Addis Abba- Ethiopia**

**Ms Ngabirano Fred**  
**Senior Community development Officer**  
**NECD Project Local Office (World Bank funded)**  
**Uganda**  
**Dr Abera geyid**  
**EHNRI -Kenya**

I am very much happy about the system of IT here in your place, especially that you have given the access of all the information to the Community. Members of the village as well as chance given to the Children to use the computer program.

**Ms Isabel & Mr Stephen Hofmann**  
**ACCEESTA**  
**Bienne**  
**Switzerland**

We have visited yesterday and today the hub in Villianur and the two villages Embalam and Veerampatinam. The whole information village research project and the two knowledge centers, which we visited, are very interesting and seem to have a high potential. Especially because of the use of all this new technology...All the people who received us (the volunteers in the villages, Mr Rajamohan and Mr Gobu) did it with a great kindness and hospitality.  
Thank you very much for everything!

**September 25<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mrs Reka Rashed**

**Regional Director for Asian Commonwealth Youth Programme  
Commonwealth Secretariat**

This has been a wonderful visit to the hub here and the information center at Pillaiyarkuppam. The possibilities are truly unlimited and so many exciting things are happening here. We commend the good work that you do wishing you the very best.

**September 26<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Ms Julian Gonsalves**

After this visit I have understood that rural development programme can utilize ICT's, if **committed professionals like MSSRF staff** are willing to spend time in rural tracts to train local men and women in the use, eventually generation of locally relevant information. We can only hope, now, that NGOs, government and private sector can help scale up what MSSRF has already demonstrated so well.

**October 18<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Hon.Minister Sri E.Jeevanandham  
Minister for Agriculture  
Government of Tamilnadu  
Tamilnadu**

Most respectable and honorable, Father of Green revolution Sri. Dr.M S Swminathan's untiring efforts brought the Information Village Research Project which seeds the growth of improving the economical and social status of the rural community through the advent of ICT through rural knowledge centers in Punisher. Best of Luck for all the efforts by this team.

**November 1<sup>st</sup> 2002**

**Mr Amol Sharma**

**Journalist**

**Easter Economic Review**

**Bombay**

**India**

I arrived in Pondicherry at 1.00 pm and was given a talk by Mr Rajmohan. He then granted me 45 minutes for an interview. He gave a lot of information on the workings of the village centers and the technology being used. This material will become part of my article for the For Eastern Economic Review. Now we are going to visit 2 villages.

**November 7<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr Jayaraman**

**Azim Premji Foundation**

**Bangalore**

Technology may throw many more option to connectivity. But the interesting part is the "social change" the project aims to bring in. I am anxious to see many more villages get into the act of establishing and sustaining "village info centers" following Pondicherry experiment as an example.

**November 8<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr Alex Whiting**

**Mr David Whiting**

**Panos Institute,**

**London**

**Mr Alex Whiting says**

This is a remarkable project. I have been very impressed both with the way the villages were able to develop the project to meet their needs and with the thoroughness + honesty with which the impact of the project is being assessed.



**Mr David Whiting says**

I am very grateful to you for allowing us to see the project and learn about all you are doing. It is very encouraging development and I am extremely impressed with all you have achieved. I wish you all the very best with you future plans.

**November 11<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Dr BG Bhujbai  
Prof. Of Horticulture  
Agriculture College  
Pune**

Best of luck for everything

**November 19<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr NK Shanmugavelu  
Agriculturen officer  
Dept of Agriculture Pondicherry  
+18 newly recruited Agriculture officer under probation**

Use of computers in IVRP, Villianur is really unimaginable and the needs of all sections of the people / society are fulfilled with variety of information. Really wonderful experience.

November 20<sup>th</sup> 2002

Dr RR Sharma

Dr V Madhav Rao

NIRD

ICT Team

Hyerabad

Our Impressions are:

1 the MSSRF ICT initiatives is a pioneering work in bridging the digital divide by taking IT to the people

2 The content of the village Knowledge center is carefully planned and is need based, client driven, adequate local based and timely

3 The utilization of information seems to be highest and there is eagerness of the people for participation and enquiring information

Suggestions:

- 1 Replication model for other parts of the country
- 2 We would like to collaborate with our Action Research village on ICT application in Villivakkam GP, Kancheepuram Dist.TN
- 3 May collaborate with Bay of Bengal Project for betterment to fisherman communities
- 4 May contact Ministry of IT for spreading the technology all over India
- 5 The RD Ministry should promote MSSRF for moving GPS a hub center for local information for their decision making and planning

We wish the MSSRF as the front-runner for the new innovative technology for the development of the project of the poor.

**December 2nd 2002**

**Hon.Madangeet Singh  
UNESCO  
Good will Ambassador  
Founder,South Asia Foundation  
& Franee**

Franee and I are very happy to see all the valuable grass root work being done by Swaminathan Foundation. We hope that all the information and content compiled by this center can be multifold on a large scale for the benefit of all the SAARC countries.

**December 5<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Jared Dart  
Center for online health  
University of QLD  
Australia**

Thank you for all your assistance. With your help I was able to better understand the role of the Hub here in Villianur as well as the variety of delivery models at the community access point. The community appears to have thirst for knowledge and appreciate the information you are providing. There is certainly a difference in the users profile between Embalam and the coastal villages. Obviously encouraging equality of access and utilization at these centers is very challenging, especially considering the varied working hours of segments of the population. Whist I recognize the need to allow the volunteers time off. At first glance it appears important to have the KCs open in the evening to allow coastal women and Agriculture coolies tom use the centers. Perhaps a rotating roster where a volunteer operates the center from 6-9 pm once a week, Spread amongst 4 staff this could allow evening access for 4 days.

I hope you are able to build a useful/productive relationship with the local redial medical professional to allow the knowledge centers to provide more health information. The communities appear to want this from my discussions with them. WELL DONE AND OOD LUCK FOR THE FUTURE.

**December 6<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr Norman Ululuff  
Director  
CIIFAD  
Cornell University  
USA**

Our visit to the center was very encouraging, even exciting to see what is being accomplished and to learn what can be accomplished from the institutional base being established with a strong village network. We wish you every success.

**December 11<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr Maharajan  
Programme Officer  
MYRADA/ Plan International  
Mysore**

**With staff + 12 resource center Directors farmers both men and women**

Myrada/Plan staff and resource centers Directors visited to MSSRF at Pondicherry our main objective are how to collect information from different departments and locale. How to communicate to people. So it is very useful to our resource centers. To collect information to our people. It is very useful to us. We are attended 12 Directors and 2 staff.

**December 12<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr Velayutham Kothari  
Kalpetta**

Really I am excited to see how these people can do such things. This is an excellent project.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Mr Arnold Parur  
Netherlands Embassy  
New Delhi**

A very interesting and rewarding initiatives to integrate farmers and women in society. Congratulations. Wish you success. Good luck. Thanks for the hospitality.

**December 21<sup>st</sup> 2002**

**Ms Cathy A.Rakowski  
Ohio State University  
Ohio**

This is a wonderful program and I would like to see it grow.

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002**

**Hana Kobayashi  
FAO representative  
Regional office for Asia& the Pacific**

It was so nice to see very active women volunteers working in centers. It looks forward for this programme to grow more in rural areas of India

**Pen Yutteka  
Government Official  
Ministry of Women& welfare Affair  
Cambodia**

I am very happy to visit the women center, the volunteer women so clever and smart. We go back and get back the feedback this information to women in Cambodia.

**Chuth Leang Vanny**  
**Government Official**  
**Ministry of Women & welfare Affair**  
**Cambodia**

I very happy to visit this center and I have learnt much information from here when I will back to my country. I hope to take all those experience to teach Cambodian women.

**December 27<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**G Sai Prasad IAS**  
**District Collector**  
**Kurnool District**  
**Andhrapradesh**

Excellent model harnessing the power of IT for the benefit of the rural poor. Hope this answers some questions regarding increasing market access

**M. Dana Kishore. IAS**  
**Project Director – DRDA**  
**Kurnool District**  
**Andhrapradesh**

Useful application of science and technology to benefit rural poor and women. All the best.

**December 30<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Michel Egger**  
**Development Policy Coordinator**  
**Swiss Coalition of Development Organizations**  
**Catholic Lenten Fund –Bread for All**

Thank you very much for you so nice and women welcome. We have been much impressed by the work you have done. You give evidence those ICTs, when use in a proper, intelligent and people-oriented way, can contribute to development in its various dimension. (Social, economical, personal). One idea that came to our mind when listening to the group is that it would be very fruitful to connect some of the women groups to some internet platform and networks

aimed at sharing experiences and ideas on local development issues, micro credit initiatives, etc. ,It would give one more dimension to the project and enable women to link themselves with women in other parts of the world, facing the various kind of problems.

**December 31<sup>st</sup> 2002**

**Chinmaya Kumar Dash + 28 members (farmers, officials)**

**IT Facilitator**

**ATMA**

**National Agriculture technology project**

**Aurangabad**

Team of 28 officials, non-officials, farmers, and facilitators visited the Villianur hub center in connection with the visit to MSSRF regarding WLL technology. Mr K G Rajamohan, facilitated to us regarding the technology (ICT) to the info villages. It is really good experience for us related to the empowerment of rural people by providing Internet. Information at the doorstep, we are quite happy. By carry the facilities available to the farmers... in future to provide their facility in Aurangabad district (Maharashtra). We are much impressed by the work you have done for the locals.

## **VISITORS' REMARKS -2003 & 2004**

**January 2003 – July 2004**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003**

**Mr. Murphy  
BSES Ltd  
Chennai**

We have visited M S Swaminathan Research Foundation and found very useful for villages. We had come to see the implementation of RF system,.

**Mr Zire Sujitkumar  
BSES Ltd  
Chennai**

Visiting MSSRF was very informative and the initiative taken by all the concerned Peoples and organizations in this project for community development, information and help is commendable and applaud able.

**January 7<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**GM Parthan  
Chennai**

Very impressed by the impact. Information can have in economic and social development in villages. MSSRF seems to be doing an excellent job. Many thanks to Dr Raja Mohan and colleagues for the briefing.

**January 8<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Dr Stiphane Denepoux  
Scientific Officer  
The World Life Sciences Forum Biovision**

Thank you to show local application of global thought of Prof.M S Swamianthan ,The Chairman of the bio Vision forum was right in prompting a visit to your center. The information about your initiative will be shared to 1000 Life Science experts gathered in Lyon, France on April 8 to 11,2003



January 9<sup>th</sup> 2003

**Ms Veronica Roos**  
**Swiss Development Corporation (SDC)**  
**Switzerland**

Search for stories about ICT for development, SDC came to Pondicherry to shoot the interesting project of the MSSRF. You are doing a wonderful work here! Congratulation!

**Mr MD Sudhirkumar IAS**  
**MD/Small Farmer's Agro Business consortium**  
**New Delhi**

A very interesting and impressive effort. MSSRF deserves all praise for this. I came here to learn, and to study the systems developed by MSSRF here, so that SFAC can try to replicate such models through the Agri-Clinic & Agri-business centers schemes, which SFAC is implementing for the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, New Delhi. We will surely pursue any possible collaboration

January 10<sup>th</sup> 2003

**Mr Vickram Crishna**  
**Net radiophony India P Ltd**

Impressive set up. We hope we can assist you to create an interactive community based environment to promote self-help and empowerment through regular production and dissemination of audio programmes.

**Ms Kamala Kesavan**  
**Ms James Witowsky**

Excellent work

**January 13th 2003**

**Cedric Roger  
SDC**

Dear ICT users in Villianur,  
We wish U the best for this new year, and we hope that all your projects will be efficient as your volunteers. Thank you very much for your hospitality and see you soon the "Net"!

**Ms Petra Schultz and Mr Christof  
WDR-Germany**

We wish you all the best for your project- so that, lots of villages can benefit from the information you provide. Thank you for showing us around.

**January 23rd 2003**

**Dr Asis Mazumdar  
Reader, Jadavpur University  
Kolkata**

It is really inspiring to see the activities of the information village research project. The information village is the need of the present day for the rural region of our developing country.

**January 24th 2003**

**Peter Singer  
Professor of Medicine  
Director, Joint Center for Bioethics  
University of Toronto  
Canada**

A fascinating visit. I think more health information might have a big impact. Congratulations on your project. I am proud that my country through IDRC and the Government of Canada funds it.

**January 25th 2003**

**Dr GS Kaushal  
Director of Agriculture  
Govt. Of Madhyapradesh  
Bhopal**

I discussed with Dr Raja Mohan regarding the activities and work carried out by the Foundation. I am happy to see the use of IT very done for the benefit of rural population. I wish all the success for the foundation and the rural population.

**January 30<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Mr. Vicki Corbett  
Friends of MSSRF  
Tokyo  
Japan**

The work carried out at the Info center has given the villagers an equal opportunity to sell their products, which they were otherwise denied. It is a "win-win" for their families and overall village- Congratulations on assisting them to improve their lives in a meaningful way.

**January 31<sup>st</sup> 2003**

**Mr Suresh  
AMARIMANDALI  
VYARA  
Surat Distirct  
Gujarat**

It is a privilege to visit then hub center at Villianur and the knowledge centers. it is a great experience to see how the concept is executed at the grass roots. To see the involvement of women and the children is very encouraging. The volunteers are helpful. Mr Gobu who is approachable, helpful and enthusiastic wish all the success to the project Information village.

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003**

**Teachers**

**GANASATRA SKOLA, LIDINGO**

**Mr Johan Lundgren**

**Ms Ola Anderson &**

**Students from**

**GANASATRA SKOLA, LIDINGO**

**Sweden**

**Linnta Lindblom**

**Turid Stromberg**

**Johan lundin**

**Linda Wallgron**

**Krishtina Nilolin-Ericsson**

**Therese Svensson**

**Mikaela Gahnberg**

**Andrea Linander**

Thank you so much for the time and effort you put into our visit. We have found it most interesting and we hope the future will be a bright one for you. Thank you.

Above are the names of the 8 students and the 2 teachers that visited the Information center

**February 4<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**V Gopalakrishna Rao**

**Professor, EEI ,Rajendranagar**

**Hyderabad**

The project is doing very important activities based on the needs and requirement of farmers and villagers which is a means of empowerment. The project is quite innovative and fitted to the local requirements. Best wishes to the endeavors of the project.

**Vijaya Abhinandana**

**Associate Professor**

**EEI ,Rajendranagar-Hyderabad**

Information is crucial input and it can empower the farming community. In the present day circumstances, these advances are very much essential. Involve old age people in operating and

maintaining information center in the village. This is going to spread through out the country. We are very much impressed with the project.

**Mr Anjanappa**  
**Associate Professor**  
**EEL , Rajendranagar-Hyderabad**

Sir, you are serving the poor farmers living in the villages. Service to poor I the service to the God. May God help you in all aspect.

**February 7<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Mr Krishnanan**  
**Dr Harshavandan**  
**DSPRAUD, Luckhow-Delhi**

MSSRF project aiming at providing information at grass root level is praise worthy. However, the potential is enormous but the usage is not so encouraging. As time goes by the awareness is going to improve and usage can increase. Currently 25% of the population of the village is using the Information kiosk. Rightly some value added service has been added which seem to make it sustainable. Thanks for the support.

**February 12<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Mr Mahesh Uppal**  
**CIDA Consultant**  
**New Delhi**

I learnt a lot and enjoyed every minute of my visit. The thought that has gone into its design and the commitment & skill that has gone into its execution, both are exceptional. Thank you for your welcome and cooperation.

**February 15<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Pradeep Kashyap**

**MART, New Delhi**

**Pradeep Lokhande, MART, Pune**

**RV Rajan, MART, Chennai**

**RA Patnaik, MART, Mumbai**

Our visit to the center and the village was a great learning experience and an eye opener. We are convinced that information technology will bridge the rural, urban divide and it will contribute to the economic growth of our villages by providing very useful information. We are deeply impressed with the effort and wish the pioneering experience a great future.

**February 20<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**I V Subba Rao**

**Vice Chancellor, AMSR Agriculture University**

**Hyderabad**

The Information village concept has been made a reality and I have been much benefited by visiting in Villianur hub-center and project office. Dr Rajamohan explained full operational liberty. The value added information communicated to the cluster of other villages connected to its hub, is an added utility for use of the farmers, and farmwomen, fishermen and others. This has served a great purpose, which many people were, thinking in the [past, which enabled to reach the un reached. It also helps in the economic empowerment of the people particularly women and fishermen. This model can be adopted by all others interested in the welfare of rural poor, small, marginal farmers and landless labors wish the team well and all success in the future endeavor.

**February 21<sup>st</sup> 2003**

**Ms Sonali Dutta**

**Director " From Fishing Net to Internet", PSBT**

**New Delhi**

The idea of networking at the local level, empowering the villagers and specially the women, firing their curiosity and enthusiasm. These are the things that impressed us about professor Swaminathan's ideas and these are the themes that will emerge in the flame. I am keen to see the

information village project further explore empowerment of farming and fishing communities by means of

a) E-commerce - at the national, and much later, global level. Eventually fair trade practices will bring a healthy change in global economies.

b) Forcing IT and computer manufacturing corporations to work with regional languages interfaces.

c) Use Tamil language keyboards –at a mega-shift level you need a key skin and stickers of Tamil fonts/alphabets on each key in long term: keyboards need to be specially manufactured.

We hope the process of empowerment and education from the green revolution to the mind/brain bringing revolution of the information age will continue (I will now stop writing and say all this better in a film medium!)

**February 26<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Robert Chapman**

**ODI, University of Colorado**

After a brief visit in 2001, I have been looking forward to returning to Villinaur and the knowledge centers. The knowledge centers are operating well and I think the communities can be organized to collect local information on many different aspects of their line to be shared through knowledge centers. In time some additional ICT such as a digital camera and video card be operated by the volunteers to document “live” and “local” examples of best practices amongst the village farmers, school children, fishermen and households. I look forward to remaining in contact with the project and the exciting work of the foundation.

**Mr Scott Nelson**

**University of Colorado**

Until coming here today, I was skeptical about the usefulness of information technology to poor farmers and landless rural people. However having listened to and interacted with Mr. Rajamohan, I am skeptical no longer. I look forward to sharing my new knowledge with others who like I was – doubt that access to the Internet can make a meaningful impact of rural livelihood. Good luck in the Future!

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003**

**Ministry of Agriculture & Labor team  
NFC Ranawara, Srilanka**

The visit though brief was very informative the fact that these panchayat members also were local in their appreciation of the facility is indicative of its effulgence. The number of information being collected and disseminated impresses me. The team wishes it all success.

**March 4<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**R Chidambaram  
Adviser of NATO**

It was a great pleasure to visit the village knowledge center, Villianur, for the first time. The pioneering work done has had a visible impact on the society in the nearby villages –one of which visited (Pillaiyarkuppam) and with another of which (embalam) we had videoconference interaction. Women empowerment seems to be the most important aspect of this impact and the economic improvement that this implies. This excellent initiative of MSSRF needs to be multiplied a thousand times and more for India's development. I congratulate all the people involved.

**March 5<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Dr Specrisa Wandira Kazibwe  
Vice President  
Republic of Uganda**

It is a revolution that is happening here! Villagers and women at that, proving to the world that technology are not alien to them. This is the way forward -Congratulations and God Bless you all and success in all you are doing.

**March 12<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Parsal Beg  
Director (Research), India Canada Coop. office  
(CIDA) New Delhi**

Something very innovative being tried. It would be interesting to see how it progresses.



**March 14<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**M Sivasankar IAS  
Director, Kerala State IT Mission  
Govt. of Kerala  
&  
U V Jose  
Kerala State IT Mission  
Govt. of Kerala**

We are extremely happy that we could make a meaningful visit to your value added center of Information Village research Project. We could gain many things and was really value addition to know the way in which you collect and transmit data in the content of the new project "Achaia" we initiated in the Malappuram district of Kerala state. Congratulation Keep it up.

**March 17<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Dr V Natarajan  
Reader &Head, Dept of Communication  
MS University  
Thirunelveli**

We a group of 28 students scholars and faculty members visited the hub center. We are happy to note that Mr. Jaikrishnan TA of this center took great pains to answer all questions raised by us to throw light on the Virgo work,

**March 20<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Ms Geetha Sridharan  
Head. Dept of Economics  
Stella Mari's College  
Chennai**

A group of 18 PG students of economics and 2 faculty members visited the information center as part of the field visit to MSSRF- Bio village and Information village project. The visit was an eye opener in the most sought after are of information technology and communication. The effort is commendable. The most important ingredient in the development effort is "reaching out" to people

and establishing the “network”. I wish all the very best to this venture and Congratulate MSSRF for this achievement.

**March 21<sup>st</sup> 2003**

**Team from CED Chennai**

Group consists 12 members of entrepreneur course organized by CED had site visit and known some technical knowledge about Solar modules and its application. Excellent work. Best wishes.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2003**

**C .Garfofi**

**University of Reading, UK**

**&**

**Florian Urmetzer**

**University of Reading, UK**

Very impressive application of Its to facilitate empowerment transfer information to village level and dialogue between local knowledge and external knowledge. Very grateful for the opportunity to visit e-project towards the publication of impact assessment conclusion is due course.

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**ATMA**

**Dy Director of Agriculture**

**Dept of Koraput range**

**Orissa**

A group of people consisting of 25 nos. Comprising farmers, NGOs and Govt officials from Agriculture visiting Pond cherry on exposure visit. On organic farming sponsored by ATMA Koraput. During the visit to this information village project at Villinaur, it was very impressive, educative and practical enhancing the at least info tech with respect to development of Agriculture. It would surely help the participants to disseminate the ideas.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Mr Sameer Thapliyal**

I am very appreciative of the assistance extended by Mr Rajamohan at the Villianur Information center. He was very kind enough to take time off his hectic schedule and explain to me in detail the excellent work the Foundation is involved in. I look forward to doing some volunteer work myself in Pondicherry on my next visit. Thanks!

**April 26<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Ms Michiko Ono**

**Peace Boat**

**Japan**

It was very impressive to learn about the information hub center & info centers, using IT as a device to transmit information and raise awareness of local villagers is wonderful. This is a great way of empowering people! Good luck to the Information village research project!

**Ms Bhuvana Radhakrishnan**

**Peace Boat**

**Japan**

It has been a pleasure, visiting your centers and learning of your work. This is a fascinating model of development, which answers the need of the people and fosters empowerment while preserving tradition, culture and the human touch. I wish you every success and hope to see you again.

**April 29, 2003**

**FARMERS (16 persons)**

**Galigathur village**

**Dhaarmapuri district**

It is more useful to our farmers who were to this center. It is really an interesting subject. Mr Rajamohan Sir explained briefly about information village details and demonstrated the village meeting. Total 16 farmers came from Galigathur village in Dharmapuri district. We thank you for these centers for opportunities given.

**May 10, 2003**

**Mr K Dhanavel.IAS**

**Director of Horticulture (TN)**

**Chepauk, Chennai.600 005**

I had the opportunity to visit this IVRP center. It is really interesting to note that the common people in general and rural people in particular are provided with the power of information and knowledge. This will go a long way in empowering rural people of this region and this worthy of emulation and expansion in rest of the country.

**May 12.2003**

**M A Salam**

**Director of Agriculture**

**Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

**Portblair**

It is highly exciting for me to visit IVRP center, Villianur on 12<sup>th</sup> may 2004. This is one of the powerful tool and media for information and technology. This will be very useful for empowering the rural; people. All the State and UT can replicate this concept.

**K G Papu**

**Southern Insecticides**

**Chennai**

I have heard so much about the center and have first hand experiences today. My wish would be response from here and were trained and develop such centers in other parts of villages to be useful to the farmers. I wish all the best.

**May 13<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Ms Sewel**

**BBC-TV Media**

For two days, I have filmed what is being done by MSSRF in Pondicherry villages.

I was deeply touched by sincerity at people I met and their belief in what they are doing.

I honestly believe this kind of projects and this kind of people give us hope for the better world.

**May 14<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Students (27 persons) from South Indian schools under  
Child friendly village program lead by Dr Ajay Parida**

Very educative and informative exposure on science and technology intervention in rural development.

**May 16<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Don Slaten  
London School of Economics  
&UNESCO  
Ian Pringle  
Consultant to UNESCO  
Dr FR Sheriff  
DEE-TNVASU  
Chennai**

Many thanks – a very impressive project

**May 22, 2003**

**J S Brac  
PAU Ludhiana  
Punjab**

The setting up of such centers in rural areas is the beginning of new revolution in Information technology for rural families. I am pleased to see the working of the hub center.

**Ashroni  
VACHAN  
Nasik**

This is a revolutionary endeavor literally taking knowledge to people. Thanks.

**Dr RP Rajput**  
**JNKVV**  
**Jabalpur**

Excellent work is started as Information village center for the benefit of local people. Such center must be set up in different parts of the TN and other parts of the country. Organizers deserve congratulations for such nice work.

**June 10 2003**

**Dr S Tata Rao**  
**Dy. Project Director**  
**Agriculture Technology Management Agency**  
**Prakasam district-Ongole**  
**Andhrapradesh**

The programme implemented by MSSRF is very much concern in dissemination of rural technologies to the farmers in up gradation of their life style and livelihoods.

**Dr H .Teggi**  
**AR-CHRS**  
**Ongole**  
**Andhrapradesh**

The discussion with the Scientists here in gave me lot of new ideas and work interest of innovative method. Hope we will also involve ourselves in this type of works. Thanks.

**N .Avaneendra Prasad**  
**Chairman**  
**Prakasam livestock Development Association**  
**ONGOLE**  
**Andhrapradesh**

Excellent work.

**M .Nagarajan**  
**M.Andha Bhaskar**  
**Hindustan Lever Limited(HLL)**  
**HR dept**  
**Pondicherry**

Visited the center which is doing enormous service to the down trodden in the field of Information Technology and SHGs. We had interacting intellectual sharing of services Implemented by MSSRF.We wish MSSRF all the very best and wish them to extend the services to other areas.

**June 12,2003**

**Prof.Dr KK Nag**  
**Prof & Head, dept of Botany**  
**Ranchi University**  
**Jharkahand**  
**&**  
**Vice Chairman/ Jharkand State Board of Bio technology**

Visited the information village Research project here on 18 June 2003 from 1030 am to 1205 pm along with Prof. RK Pandey and Prof AK Choudhry. We are much impressed by the work going on here and it is definitely a praise worthy experiment to be widened throughout the country of making use of information technology for the welfare and enlistment of the people, especially the poor and those who are the ones who produce and provide food and fish to all. Best wishes for its further development and congratulations to all associated with such a nice project.

**June 26, 2003**

**Ms Sarah Holt**  
**NOVA IPBS- TV**  
**Ms Vidya Shah**  
**CMAC**  
**A/1/81 Panchasheela Link**  
**New Delhi.**

Interesting! Very good work. keep it up.

**July 3.2003**

**S.Gopalakrishnan  
AGM Project  
SBI Corporate center  
MUMBAI**

Good effort by MSSRF!

**July 8,2003**

**Dr K K Singh  
Sr. Project Manager  
WPBSN**

Visited this center along with 12 members working in a UNDP funded Food security project today. The center is equipped with modern IT infrastructure and making use to this people in village and helping them to save their time and money by way of advanced information.

**July 16 2003**

**Mr Sathyanarayana  
Dy General Manager  
Bharath Electronics Ltd  
Bangalore  
N P Selvam  
Manager (exports)  
Bharath Electronics Ltd  
Bangalore**

It has been an enriching and excellent opportunity to learn about the good and innovative work being done by MSSRF.IT being taken to the4 grassroots level physically and practically to benefit the needy. We wish MSSRF greater success in all future endeavors.



**July 17 2003**

**Katherine Pottebaum**

**World Food program, USA**

**Abigail Darge**

**WEEKs**

**World Food Program –Intern**

**USA**

**Great work ! Best of Luck!**

**July 20,2003**

**Virginie Barel**

**French TV**

**Alexis Orand**

**Paris**

**France**

**Made an excellent coverage of coastal knowledge center –Veerampattinam of MSSRF and to be relayed in Talassa (TV 5 ) French program.**

**August 1,2003**

**Lisa Dreier**

**Easu institute**

**Hunger Task force**

**New York**

**USA &**

**Choudeika Bhadoor**

**Millinium Project**

**New York**

**USA**

**It is indeed! A new innovation!**

**Dr P Thomodaran**

**Dr B Gobu**

**Dr Jomon Joseph**

**Dr Anandan.P**

**(Internees-)**

**Rajiv Gandhi College of veterinary Science**

**Pondicherry**

**Excellent work by MSSRF**

**August 11,2003**

**Phil Jeffery**

**Australia**

A very efficient and useful service-keeping people informed is extremely important. I wish you well for the future.

**August 16,2003**

**Yamini Tiwari (India)**

**Centon Vaughan(Canada)**

**Finbar(Canada)**

**Chanda Chevannes(Canada)**

**From Saskatchewan Ltd.,**

**Canada**

Technology plays high role in information dissemination. Good work. Best of Luck.

**August 18,2003**

**Dr Rajesh Rajora.IAS**

**District Collector**

**Balaghat**

**Madhyapradesh**

IVRP is India's premier ICT research project. I had heard and read so much about the project. Today I have the occasion to make a field visit as an UNDP Consultant. The project is working in predominantly dalit hebetated areas with one-third population lying below poverty line. The

documentation of various aspects of the village is excellent. Community participation has been ensured through constant communication and involvement. Technological aspects also are very well taken care of IVRP, also tries to bridge the gender gap wish the project very best in its marvelous endeavor

**August 24, 2003**

**Frank Tulus**

**IDRC**

**New Delhi**

I think I have seen a very good example of a project with a very good coordination, commitment, and dedication of various people who want to see the IVRP mission to be worthwhile and successful. I like to congratulate MSSRF, its staff and of course, the volunteers who spend many hours in making this project a success. Keep up the good work and I hope to be able to hear even more success stories in the future.

**Shalini kala**

**IDRC**

**New Delhi**

My basic objective in visiting IVRP was to learn the ENRAP projects wishing to embark on a similar mission. I must admit, in the 2 days I spent here, I have learned a lot about the challenges of setting up village tele centers, the tremendous benefits to the community in a period of just 5 years and the vision and commitment of MSSRF team here in making this possible. The very best to them.

**September 3 2003**

**Grant Lewison**

**City University**

**London**

I have been most impressed and stimulated by your efforts to help poor rural people benefits from new information sources. Many of the ideas are highly innovative and one of the primarily benefit may well be social in that village KC will give people much more hope and faith in their own future and that of their community.

**September 4 2003**

**Lalitha Sridharan  
Independent Journalist  
Chennai**

A most interesting and educative experience. Another MSSRF initiation that bridges the distance between policy and the grass roots with apparent ease. Do keep up your good work!

**U.Utharasutha & team  
Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru college of Agriculture & Research Institute  
Karikal**

We are from PAJANCO (eight students –girls) Karikalampakkan batch. Social scientist Dr Raja Mohan gave some information about the research center that is helpful for us. Thank you for your kind information about this information research center.

**Ramadosse  
Atelier Shanthi (NGO)  
Pondicherry**

It was a wonderful day to know about the programmed

**Aravamudhu  
Volontariat(NGO)  
Pondicherry**

The programme and activities carried out by you is very impressive and it is of very practical to realize that it reaches the villagers.

**September 9 2003**

**Dr P k Ranjekar  
Mr Bhushan Ambadkar  
Vanarai Trust (NGO)  
498-Parvati  
Pune**

Cooperation to set up similar centers required.

**Dr S Venkataraman**  
**Vanarai Trust (NGO)**  
**Pune**

Collection and compilation of data on quantity and type of fishes caught to be given prime importance.

**September 13,2003**

**Mr Varadarajyulu IAS**  
**Former Secretary to Govt of Tamilnadu**

Great effort by MSSRF!

**September 15,2003**

**Dr B Vijayan**  
**Development Commissioner**  
**Govt. of Pondicherry**  
**Pondicherry &**  
**Madavan M (web master)-[www.pondicherryagri.org](http://www.pondicherryagri.org)**  
**Dy. Director of Agriculture**  
**Govt. of Pondicherry**  
**Pondicherry**

Excellent. We are modeling on you. Keep it up. Hope we can have more cooperation.

**September 16, 2003**  
**Sergio Quiroga Cunha –Brzil**  
**Anna Blomquist – Sweden**  
**Lotti Steenbuch Kristerud –Sweden**  
**Arun Bhikshesvaran –USA**  
**ERICSSON GLOBAL**

The work of MSSRF in bringing social –economic improvements to the rural parts of the country are commendable. Ericsson as a company believes that ICT can play an important role in this effort. This visit and interaction with the foundation members yesterday were extremely beneficial. As we continue to work through our project, the insight gained from this interaction will

prove to be very useful. We hope we can partner with the foundation along with our customer partners to play our part in this important process.

**September 22,2003**

**Suresh Guptan**

**Life member Eye bank Association of India/**

**Eye bank Societies of Rajasthan**

**Rajasthan**

It was a great visit to Pondicherry and MSSRF. The depth and breadth of application of world-class technology to solutions at the bottom layer of rural India is very exciting to me as an individual. The challenge for the rest of us is to work with MSSRF and replicate the concepts in geographical areas like drought prone arid districts of our country. We need holistic approaches to total development of developing countries. I hope that I can establish lasting working relationships with MSSRF! God Speed their efforts!!

**September 26, 2003**

**M Kanagu**

**NCAP**

**New Delhi**

For the project" Innovative Institutions for Technology Dissemination: Role Information and communication Technology" organized by National Institute of Agriculture Economics and policy research, I have visited the Villianur Hub center and selected village Knowledge centers. I have discussed about the information dissemination through ICT methods with all the Scientists and technical staff.

As per my opinion, village information center is acting as a information hub for rural households. It covers all the fields including agriculture, health, animal husbandry, social development programme, education etc.,

I received feedback from beneficiaries about the project they mentioned that it is highly useful for us. I felt very happy while visiting the KC centers in rural areas.

I convey all the best to all whom working the project to change the rural life. And I convey sincere thanks to all staffs that helped me to get awareness about the project.

Thanking you for all.

Wish U all the best.

**October 7,2003**

**Ram Kumar C and team members**

**ICRISAT**

**Hyderabad**

I on behalf of the team along with Nad Ali, thank MSSRF & Dr Balaji for giving an opportunity to visit this successful experiment of "Reaching the unreached". The innovative manner in which an obvious technology was put to constructive use is impressive. This project definitely inspired me to find new ways of applying available technology to benefit the underprivileged parts of population. No technology can be successful until it reaches the unreached. The team of volunteers deserves great appreciation for their continued commitment and motivation as found during my visit. I wish the team all the very best. Best regards.

**October 8,2003**

**K Usha Rao**

**Hyderabad**

It is really heartening to learn about this initiative first hand! Would like to wish success in all similar endeavors and hope to see many rural areas adopting the best practices of sharing information and knowledge to development. Wishing the very best.

**K Crudhan**

**Ex Vice Chancellor**

**OVAT**

**Bhvaneshwar**

I am pleased to know the good work being done by the centers. The impact studies made on the project indicate good use of the programmes. I wish this sincerity continue in future.

**October 10,2003**

**Puneeth Chopra**

**IBM**

**Business Consulting Services**

**Bombay**

It was a wonderful experience visiting various information research project locations and the hub. There are significant learning that I have had from the visit and the way the project is being operated is commendable.

**AK Pant / H Sivahal**  
**VK Nangia / HK Verma**  
**IIT**  
**Roorkee**

It has been very educative for us to see the village knowledge centers at 2 places and the hub center cum project office. Through this network for under privileged people, who have not been cared for by the Govt. or society. The scientist and staff at hub center are very dedicated and we find them enjoying their work by helping the community. The operated of VKCs are very enthusiastic about the whole programme and work with the spirit of helping their community.

**Min Fezi& Team**  
**Friends of MSSRF**  
**Tokyo- Japan**

Thanks for the terrific explanation of information centers. And thanks for the great work you do!

**October15, 2003**

**Zendda Ofir**  
**Evaluation Specialist**  
**Evalnet**  
**Johannesburg,**  
**South Africa.**

We need to get this project information in Africa –especially the focus on the application of information with ICTs just used as the tool, rather than becoming emphasis in the project. We can learn from your clever solutions –the hub and spokes model, the loudspeakers, you are tracing and monitoring to see that it is really demand driven. This project has convinced me that this type of service in the community is as critical for government support as or a clinic –this is just as important a tool for development of people and the well being and empowerment o nation as schools and clinics. Just keep on (and improve even) documenting the details, drawing and disseminating lessons. We have to learn from you!



**Lisa Kriel**  
**Evalnet(South Asia)**  
**Johannesburg,**  
**South Africa**

This project is too important (both i.e. grass roots changes effected (social change) and visible impacts but as a model to be used everywhere.) to let slide once MSSRF leaves. Special focus needs to be given in the next 3 years to ensure that the “spokes” will survive without the “hub” teaching people to take care of the hub functions without MSSRF.

This is an example for all developing countries.

**October 18,2003**

**P C Mohan**  
**Senior Communication specialist**  
**World Bank**  
**Washington DC &**  
**Meera**  
**Velugu Project**  
**Andhrapradesh**

Visited the hub and two VKCs here in Pondicherry. Very interesting initiative –the issue in how to share this information access more direct value to go beyond the subsidy limitation.

**October19, 2003**

**Mahesh Bansketa,**  
**IUCN Nepal Country Representative**  
**Kathamndu**  
**Nepal**

It was a great learning experience for the IUCN Nepal Study team an indigenous knowledge to visit and interact with the people of the Information Village Research Project of MSSRF. The team was highly impressed and hopes it can initiate similar innovations and hopes in our efforts to improve people's quality of life.

Keep up the good work to help he rural people with IT systems.

**October 29,2003**

**Dr Ganesh  
MITS  
Chennai**

Dr Ganesh led by Dr Aphonese and Dr Vishwanath Pallad visited IVRP to observe the IT initiative.

**November 8, 2003**

**South the South exchange for IT initiative representation from  
18 countries from Africa /Asia**

ICT development traveling workshop stayed in Pondicherry for 3 days and visited all the Kcs and admired.

**November 12,2003**

**Dalgen Steen  
Daniswh Daily Information  
Dennak  
Dinesh Lakhanpal  
Producer/Director**

Covered all KCs activities...very fine

**November 25,2003**

**Gram panchat members  
Narambai –Pondicherry**

Member came to Hub to submit application to Govt of Pondicherry as exposure trip

**November 24, 2004**

**Gram panchat members  
Moorthykuppam @pudukuppam  
To get new knowledge center details**

**December 4, 2003**

**T S Vamsidhar redid  
Andhra pradesh Rural Livelihood programme  
Hyderabad**

It is an enlightening visit. The concept and the implementation part of it are worth appreciation. Enthusiasm sustained by the women faith in the center is wonderful. I sincerely hope they continue the good work and serve as inspiration for many around. Good Luck for everybody involved.

**Srikanth  
Andhra pradesh Rural Livelihood programme  
Hyderabad**

I have witnessed the empowerment of women using ICT. It is a good model for committed people any where in the world.

**Gitanjali Chaturvedi  
BOBP  
Chennai**

Congratulations!

**December 10,2003**

**Mohammed Amjad Saleem  
PRADAN**

It is really amazing for me. After coming here, I realized that how information technology would be useful in rural development. I would like to wish all MSSRF people to achieve their goal of sustainable development for the poor.

**December 17,2003**

**Ashok C Khosla  
73 Paschimi Marg  
Vasant Vihar  
New Delhi-110057**

It is good understatement to call them pools of excellence. They are oceans of understanding and of such immense benefit to the community, which promotes us with basic means of sustenance. It is eye-opening and mind opening.

**K Laxminarayana Rao  
Consultant  
Agri business & community agriculture relief  
New Delhi**

We had a unique wonderful experience at the MSSRF Info. Center. I feel more such centers should come up in the country if we have to change our Agriculture sector and move forward. The center is doing a yeoman service to the farming community. We had a good learning experience and are fruitful for providing this opportunity.

**Sri. N T Shunmugam  
Minister for Petroleum and Industries  
New Delhi**

I am happily inaugurated M S Swaminathan Research Foundation's quality Literacy program in website and happy to see they are doing excellent work in establishing village knowledge centers and working for the development of the rural community and economical progress of the people. I wish them all success for extending the program to other villages in India.

**December 24,2003**

**Devina Dutt  
Tata Services  
Mumbai**

Research for unity a hook on Tata philanthropy.

**December 26,2003**

**Ashwini Kumar Sharma**  
**MD- RAJCOMP- GOR- Jaipur**

The project is good for rural people.

**January 09, 2004**

**Souchithra Rollin**  
**University of Genoble**  
**France**

Observed the information about micro credit, self-help groups' economical development in knowledge centers.

**Dr V Rajagopal**  
**Director, CPURI**  
**Kasaragod- Kerala**

It is an excellent system of communication with the local villagers on various aspects like agriculture, health, education, environment; information technology is used effectively to bring awareness to the villagers. The resource persons are qualified and the villagers are highly responsive. This is the most successful venture for the benefit of villagers. I wish the center all the best.

**Dr Arul Raj.S**  
**Head of division (Social Science)**  
**CPCRI, Kasaragod- Kerala**

Good service extended to rural community-with highly relevant and timely information sharing.  
Suggestion: For technical guidance on coconut, they may use our site [www.cpcri.nic.in](http://www.cpcri.nic.in)

**January 12,2004**

**Eric Brewer**  
**Prof. Of Computer Science**  
**UC Berkeley**  
**California-Berkeley- USA**

A great project – I hope we can help!

Joyojeet pal  
Student  
Dept of Planning  
UC Berkeley  
California-Berkeley  
USA

Excellent work, look forward to seeing replications.

January 20, 2004

Vikas Badal  
Joint Director, Dept of IT e\_communication  
Govt of Rajasthan  
Jaipur.  
&  
K L jawaria  
Scientist-D, NIC  
Rajasthan

Good and Excellent for poor people.

January 29, 2004

Prof (Dr) Surabhi Banerjee  
Vice Chancellor  
Nehtaji Subahsh State Open University  
West Bengal

My visit to this hub center has been extremely fruitful. Find that the center is doing wonderful work. I would say it is really bringing about a silent revolution in the area as well as in the use of ICT at the micro –rural level. If any thought could be developed to the dissemination of primary/secondary education/or of variegated awareness programmes, the endeavor could be more rewarding and more meaningful. I congratulate the facilitators here on their great success.

**February 4, 2004**

**Dr R P Rajput**

**Project Consultant**

**NATP**

**JNKW-Jabalpur(MP)**

Information village center under the umbrella of MSSRF Chennai has created excellent facilities for the development of rural people of Pondicherry. I am amazed to see the women are managing its center so effectively that they prepare PowerPoint and present before different users and funding agency. It is really worth appreciating pray that it should be multiplied not only in Pondicherry but also in entire country. I wish the successful and effective functioning of the information villages in future.

**March 13, 2004**

**Michel Gen**

**Course Director**

**IT for Rural Development**

Visit of 14 International participants from 11 countries namely Cambodia, Georgia, Uzlekhirtta, Khazhistan, Mynemar, Uganda, Zimbave, Mangolia, Mexico to the Knowledge centers and hub center at Villianur. Participants felt the excellent work done by the Foundation, are very much impressed. The field visits to this center and nearby villages found very useful to participants.

**March 27, 2004**

**Prof.Lakhuman Dissangu**

**Manovi Kaluthantin**

**Dr Sirimal Abuyratin**

**R L Sisiru Kumara**

**Unvieristy of Coloumbo**

**Srilanka**

This is another great experience to visit the hub after visiting village knowledge centers. I feel that there is a great potential to transfer this concept to Srilankan villages. I am very much impressed with your open knowledge network concept as well. The discussion we had with your volunteers is very valuable to us. I thank all those who helped us today and wish you all the best.

**March 31, 2004**

**Vasaurtha**

**GUIDE –Chengalpet**

It is been a very excellent experiences to learn the knowledge systems spread through Information centers. It leads to equal opportunity to all the deprived in rural areas, also helps to minimize poverty and urbanization. We appreciate your innovative efforts, thanks for a learning opportunity.

**April 1, 2004**

**M Malhotra**

**Secretary General**

**Rajiv Gandhi Foundation**

**New Delhi**

Enormously impressive. Truly, technology in the service of people. Congratulations to all concerned for their creativity and dedications. Hope to see this remarkable effort spread to other parts of the country.

**Mrs Narqashiman**

**Mr Senthilkumar**

**Azim Premji Foundation**

**Bangalore**

Nice to take ICT to the children under child friendly villages of MSSRF by using various educational CDs.

**April 3, 2004**

**Salani Meghani**

**TATA services**

**Chennai**

WOW ! The revolution has begun.



**April 21.2004**

**Team of School students Chennai  
(Visited IVRP under Every Child a Scientist' program**

We a group of 22 children visited the information center and were aghast at the interest so many people are taking towards rural development. It was a feeling we have never felt before. We wish to thank all the authorities who have made this possible for us to learn on how to help people. We also wish this center turns into a mega success and helps to uplift India.

**April 29 2004**

**Krishnakumari  
Program Officer  
American Consulate  
Chennai**

Please accept my sincere thanks for sparing the staff time to show me and explain the Information Village hub activities. It is really interesting and knowledgeable for me to know how the knowledge centers are imparting services to the rural people.

I have visited Embalam knowledge center. It is really interesting to note that through the IVH a rural woman made a maiden journey outside of India to show case the potential of rural community in India. I hope to work with you in near future. Thanks.

**April 30.2004  
Subrat K Ront  
Action Aid India  
Balangir-FO**

A great experience. A great learning. Thanks to each of the workers and scientist with MSSRF. You are creating pathways for others to follow great job. Excellent efforts.

**Fizito Padin  
IT Coordinator  
Great lakes region  
Action Aid**

Very impressed by the use of ICTs to break the digital divide. Keep it up. Thanks.

**May 5 2004**

**Dr Leslie Grn  
Intelligence Agents, Multimedia group  
University of Southampton, UK**

I was hugely impressed with the center at Villianur, the facilities are excellent and the dedication of the staff and volunteers most impressive. I am very taken with the breath of the vision that the Village research project is pioneering. As an English academic, I am very humble by the extent to which knowledge technologies have become an integral part of rural Indian Life! Thank you very much for the opportunity to expand my understanding of how knowledge can make a difference to people.

**Prof. Leslie Chen  
University of Toronto @Scarborough**

Today I visited the Information village research project in Villianur and I spoke at length with Dr A R Thiagarjan and J Gobu and some other staff. I am extremely impressed with the knowledge in particular the dedication both the staff and the volunteers show.

I have heard about the IVRp before and read about its much success and the philosophy behind the project. Seeing the project for myself, I was even more convinced with the power of the project and the vision behind it.

We also visited three villages and saw the local set up as well as local staff and volunteers. Again their dedications are obvious. This project really shows that while technology will enable social change, it is really the effort of the people that made such a project a success.

This project should be more widely known and studied and served as model for other project.

As a Canadian, I am particularly proud to see the support of IDRC and CIDA. I will be reporting to IDRC and I will reinforce the worthwhile nature of the project and encourage continuous support. I wish the people continued success. I look forward to learning more in the future.

**May 18,2004**

**Dr R K Goel IAS  
Commissioner Agriculture  
Maharastra State  
Pune**

An excellent project proving the power of Information. Economic viability of the project needs to be studies before one decides about its replicability.

I wish the project all success.

**May 20 2004**

**Dr M Mohandas**  
**Coordinator, Center for WTO issues**  
**Kerala Agriculture University**  
**Trichur**

I find the work really useful for the rural community for empowering them with knowledge and information power. Congratulations to all the functionaries connected with the project. As the Institutional Coordinator of the Virtual University for Agricultural Trade in Kerala I place on record our deep appreciation and wish all success to your noble cause.

**Dr C K Peethambaran**  
**Director of Research, Kerala Agriculture University**  
**Trichur**

My visit to this hub was very educative. I congratulate all the workers behind this project and wish them success.

**May 21 2004**

**Sukanya Rath, Executive Director**  
**NASSCOM foundation**  
**New Delhi**

My visit to the hub center was a rich learning experience. Activities demonstrate the power of information and how it can transform lives in rural communities. I wish the entire team the very best always. May the good work continue and spread.

**May 22 2004**

**Dr Balamurti Natarrajan**

**Dr Richado Salvador**

**and 11 students**

**Iowa State University,**

**Iowa -USA**

Our group thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and look forward to visiting the villages (ICT). The Center is a welcome change for those of us looking for a positive model for Indian development. Thank you for your time and hospitality.

**May 25 2004**

**V Jayashankar**

**Reliance Infocomm**

**Chennai**

I am V Jaishankar from reliance Infocomm,Chennai. Meeting with Mr Mr K G Rajamohan and Mr Gobu was very good and informative, The project and services offered by MSSRF is very much needed for India. I would like to be in touch with MSSRF in future for our rural community project.

**June 8 2004**

**Aravind Ojha**

**URMUL TRUST, Bikanur**

**Rajasthan**

**& Surjan Ram**

**URMUL TRUST**

**Phalodi, Rajasthan**

Surajram , a weaver from Pokharan ,Rajasthan and me Aravind Ojha,Chief Executive, URMUL, visited this center, It is really fantastic information hub working extremely good.

It is very much useful for all the communities in the are.

We learnt lot from this center, I thank Gobuji and Anadhi,They are doing a very good service for mankind. Regards.

**June 11 2004**

**Dr S Rajakutty**  
**Director**  
**NIRD &**  
**Sri. V Ramakurthy**  
**Director**  
**SIRD**  
**Chennai**  
**Sri. J Raghavendra Rao**  
**Eco. Horticulturist**  
**Chennai**

Visited the hub and interacted with project staff. Very impressive with the enthusiasm and dedication of staff. We wish the project all success.

**June 16,2004**

**Hon.Datuk Ong TEE Keat**  
**Deputy Minister of Youth & sports**  
**Malaysia**

Exemplary effort that needs to be emulated. Regards.

**June 24 2004**

**Saley Md Xarimdanean**  
**BRAC PACE Program**  
**BRAC**  
**Dhaka &**  
**Md Hyder Hossain**  
**BRAC education Program-MIS**  
**BRAC- Bangladesh**

The hub center of the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation is much more well organized and helpful to provide different information to their different knowledge centers. It's seemed that this organization will be a model of the world today or tomorrow-no doubt. Thanks a lot to K G Rajamohan and other colleagues to their best cooperation.

**June 29 2004**

**Balaji Parthasarathy**  
**Indian Institute of Information Technology**  
**Bangalore**

The pioneering efforts to deploy ICTs to transform various aspects of rural life is inspiring. The novelty of the ideas and the commitment of the staff at Villianur are admirable. Wishing this effort even greater success in the future.

**July 13, 2004**

**Shoba Shetty**  
**World Bank**  
**Jakarta**

I have been very impressed by the IVRP. Congratulations to the MSSRF team and the village communities (esp. the women) who have made it possible.

**July 20 2004**

**Mukund Korakshkar**  
**Program Officer**  
**Sir Dorabji TATA Trust**  
**Mumbai**

Fantastic! The Sir Dorabji TATA Trust has so far given financial support to upgrade the knowledge centers. We also see merit in associating in non-financial terms with this program by enhancing information we get and learning about the state from the information you generate. I am sure these centers will be able to sustain themselves in the immediate period.

All the very best.

**&**

**Ms Theenar Vguria**  
**Sir Dorabji TATA Trust**  
**Mumbai**

The sharing of knowledge and technology has testified in the short term the villagers and SHGs of Tamilnadu. But in the long run, the whole country stands to gain by this progressive people movement. Thank you.